CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 21, No. 38 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | January 18th, 1930

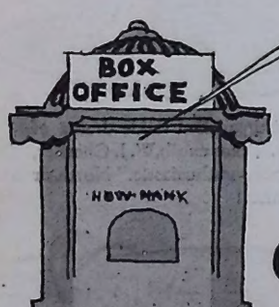
EXTRA!

Lightning strikes twice in the same place—

CHARLES KING—BESSIE LOVE
are on the way to your public with a singing, dancing, talking drama that actually tops their "Broadway Melody"

CHASING RAINBOWS

with JACK BENNY, MARIE DRESSLER, POLLY MORAN, EDDIE PHILLIPS. Directed by CHARLES F RIESNER

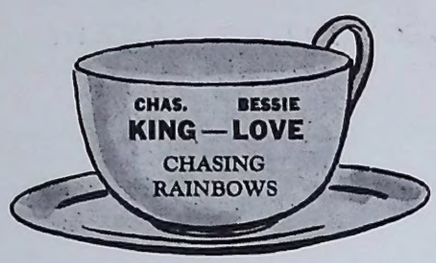


Get Hot about
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

GOOD TO THE LAST DROP!

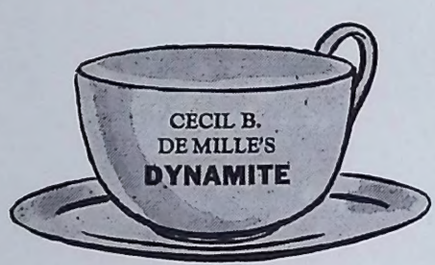
Broadway's new $2 favorite. Thrills! Romance! Novarro of "Pagan Love Song" fame now sings four hit songs! Directed by Sidney Franklin!



Your public is waiting for the "Broadway Melody" team! Another laugh and song thriller!

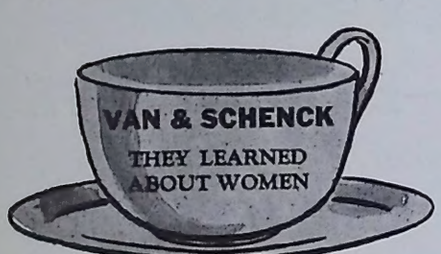
M-G-M signed these happy singers again because your folks will want them again and again. It's great!

Imitations only prove that the screen's first Revue is best of all. It's still "Singin' in the Rain" to profits!

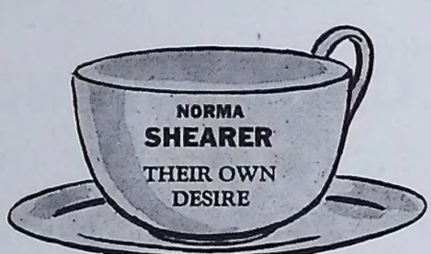


Mobs storm Capitol, N. Y. continuing success record of De Mille's first spectacular Talkie! Box-office Dynamite!

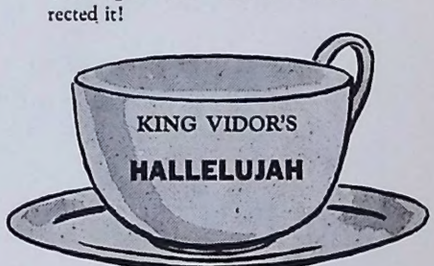
Her first Talkie! And one of the greatest pictures of all time. We predict it now! You'll agree later! Clarence Brown directed it!



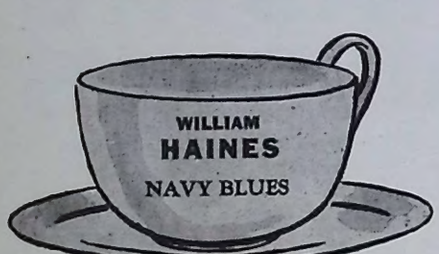
Box-office names! In a rousing comedy-drama of the baseball world. They sing —and the public flocks in!



What a drama this talkie is! Unbridled passions of youth! Exquisite production! Norma at her most beautiful best!

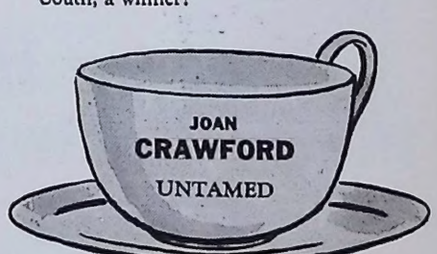


The most distinguished talkie drama of the past year. Texas exhib, W. J. Chesher, writes: "Patrons enthusiastic." North or South, a winner!



A scream! Bill Haines funnier than ever. As a gob he'll win your folks again. A love story that's got audience power!

Still smacking the records wherever it plays. Greta sets audiences afire with this thrilling drama of love.



Beautiful, untamed Joan Crawford in her first talkie is sensational. "Chant of the Jungle" is just one hit song.

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

The Cream in Your Coffee

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established in 1915 for Exhibitors
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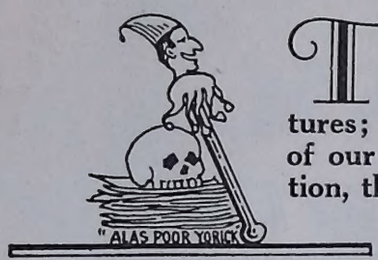
RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

Published by Canadian Moving Picture Digest Company, Limited
259 Spadina Ave. - Toronto

Vol. 27, No. 38 | TORONTO 2. CANADA | January 18th, 1930

Saving Millions



THE QUESTION of material for stories, and a sufficient diversity of material has always been an important question in the production of Motion Pictures; and naturally, since production is the starting point of our Industry's trade, governing distribution and exhibition, the production of pictures is a question with which all of our units should be concerned.

We have had a run on murder mysteries, crook dramas, musical comedy revues, stage-life close-ups; and now what's next?

The drama has not been so resplendent with successes that it can supply a sufficient amount of material to keep our Industry going, for the majority of theatre successes have been relegated to so-called "High-Brow" drama, or psychological plays for which we have not the right kind of patronage.

Aside from this angle, the Censors, which permit the dramas, will not permit pictured dramas of the same material. Throughout the history of production there have been many outstanding Silent Films which have made picture history and box-office records. Why could not all this material be utilized for the era of Talking Pictures, that is, why could there not be a selection of the proved hits, to be remade again, just as some of our most widely-discussed books have been built up on the same characters in history, differently presented and embellished, and registering large sales now.

It can be done! In fact some Silent Pictures which have "flopped" for some unknown reason could be strengthened by an addition of dialogue. Millions of dollars could be saved in the re-making of such pictures, the use of such properties which still exist; and in many cases the very use of some of the old films!

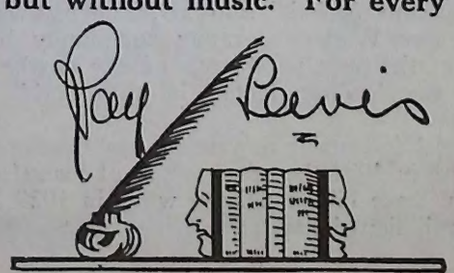
These sandwiched in with some new material would give our programs the necessary variety! For it is variety that we need now, else the best of efforts will fall flat for need of an interlude of interest which separates them.

It is not sufficient to let one week pass between one revue before presenting another. Already patrons are beginning to murmur, "Oh you know, same old stuff, a few songs, some comedy, some girls." And while we are on this subject of material, who pronounces a song good, the director, or some one skilled in the knowledge of song hits?

Some of the songs are so poor in music, and in thought, that one wonders who put them over? No wonder the star, or singer, registers a flop, since they start out with the world against them.

"Broadway Melody" has songs which are still popular, so has "Close Harmony," "Rio Rita," "Desert Song," "Fox Follies," "On With The Show," "Hollywood Review," "Innocents of Paris," "Show Boat," but some of the other songs should be, not only songs without words, but without music. For every one "Angela Mia," there are ten fallen angels that no one would care to claim. And incidentally must a man be given the opportunity to sing his songs just because he writes them?

Returning to our economic urge, dig up the old stuff, make it talk and sing, it's worth millions!



RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

FOR the last fifteen years I have been talking Canada to British producers and distributors; and to the American trade. Prophesying that Canada is destined to be "a Nation among Nations"; a Nation which is worthy of the greatest of consideration by way of Trade and Commerce from England and from her next door neighbor.

In England all eyes were turned always full upon America for picture trade; and all that Canada got was a "squint" or a reflected, or deflected ray.

In the U. S. the curse of being a "five-per-center" was Canada's curse. But times have changed.

ENGLAND is looking Canada square in the eye now; and the U. S., having pocketed some of the "big dough," this season in particular, which Canada has been delivering by way of box-office percentages, is not taking a look at Canada from a front view only, but making an all-around survey for a general "look in."

S. H. Logan, General Manager of the Bank of Commerce, in presenting a nation-wide survey of Canada's "definitely-planned projects," made by the Bank of Commerce, informed the shareholders at their annual meeting that one billion dollars is to be spent on projects in Canada.

Sounds American. Sounds good! $500,000,000 *is to be spent during the current year!*

MR. LOGAN, in commenting on the "Paper King's" downfall, said that so great a rise and fall in values must necessarily have its effect on Trade and Commerce, but the effect upon Trade and Industry had not been of such proportions as has been anticipated.

In considering the general position of Canada, the speaker commented on the progressive development of Canada over a period covering the last five years in connection with agricultural, mineral and forest production. The total values of these for 1929 *is estimated at two thousand, three hundred and thirty million dollars as against two thousand and eighty-nine millions in* 1924.

"IN the same period," said Mr. Logan, "we have seen our Western farming community become one of the most prosperous of any on the globe and the leading factor in the world wheat market."

The general industrial movement has developed remarkably; and in 1924 the gross values of manufactures was less than three billion dollars, while in 1929 it was close to four billion dollars.

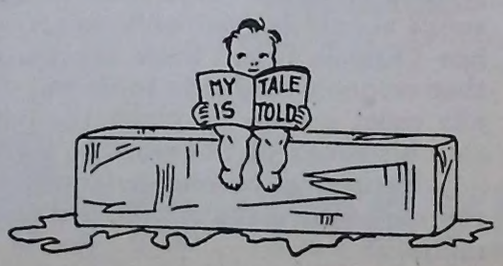
Sir Thomas White, Vice-President, in his address covered the whole field of Canadian business, and stated that 1929 *as a whole must be regarded as among the most advantageous years for Canada commercially and industrially.*

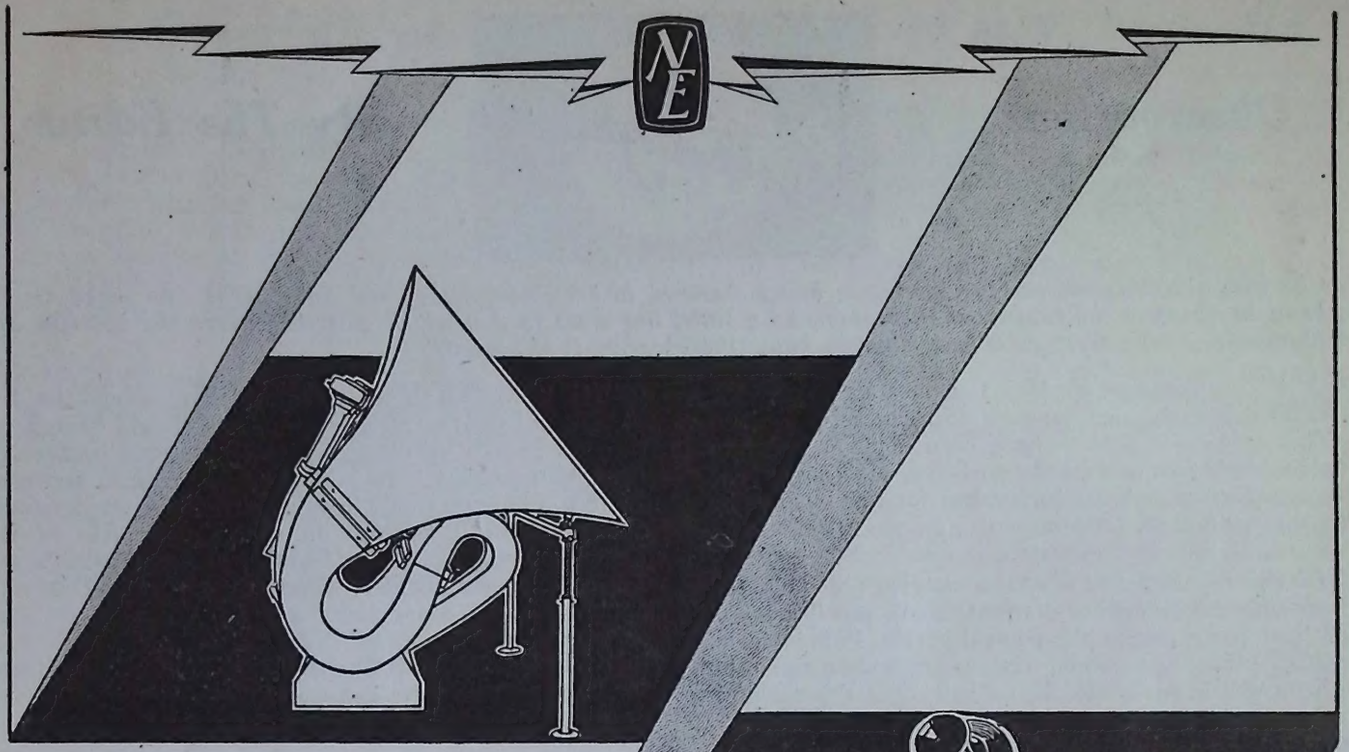
THE question of Empire Trade was fully discussed, Sir Thomas stating, "In view of adverse tariff legislation already enacted, or in contemplation by various nations of the world, which would have the effect of further curtailing exports from British countries in a period when international trade competition is the keenest, there has arisen throughout the Empire a growing consciousness that within the Empire itself lies a field for trade and industry whose fruitful possibilities can hardly be over-estimated. The British Empire within its vast boundaries produces every variety of commodity required for the use of Man."

Sir Thomas emphasized the suggestion that to achieve an enlargement of Empire Trade, "Empire Co-operation rather than an Empire Consolidation would seem for the present to be the practical step." An Empire conference on this question is to be held during 1930.

Meanwhile, since gold appears to be one of the leading questions in the world, and France is heralded and proclaimed as enjoying a Golden era, with about $40.00 *in gold per capita, it is interesting to note that during* 1929 *Ontario's gold production gained* $895,345, *or the total value of crude bullion was* $33,383,169 *for the past year which compares with* $32,688,824 *during* 1928.

CANADA is literally and figuratively speaking a gold mine to those who are sufficiently interested to invest in Canada, building up their enterprises here; and not among the least of these is the Moving Picture Industry!





LEADERSHIP IS THE RESULT OF EXTENSIVE RESEARCH IN SOUND TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS...

The Northern Electric Company's leadership in the sound picture field is due to their extensive experience in sound transmission problems. This experience extends over a period of a half century in the manufacturing of the telephone--a similar sound transmission problem. . . . All the tones that go into the making of a picture are faithfully reproduced on Northern Electric Sound System. It is the system by which all others are judged. . . . Engineers are ready to serve theatre owners anytime of the day or night. Ample stocks are carried at convenient points across Canada for quick delivery.

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The VOICE of ACTION
SOUND SYSTEM

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WESTERN ELECTRIC IN U.S.A.

ST. JOHN N.B. HALIFAX QUEBEC MONTREAL OTTAWA TORONTO HAMILTON LONDON WINDSOR NEW LISKEARD SUDBURY WINNIPEG REGINA CALGARY EDMONTON VANCOUVER

Observations

By The Editor

"Let he who observes, observe that he too is being observed in his observations; and therefor let him make his remarks as he observes the subject of them, nor add a tittle, nor a jot to that which passeth between the observer and the observed. So by these rules may all men know the observer is observant."

FOX FILM directors decided at a meeting to pay the $1.00 dividends, due January 15th, in scrip.

This decision is said to have been made in order to conserve cash for overdue bank loans, and nearly one million dollars in cash has been saved for this purpose by the scrip method of payment.

IT IS also reported that Fox is arranging a $35,000,000 loan with the Broadway National Bank and Trust Co. This loan would retain the control of the Fox interests for Fox. The loan would simply be underwritten by the bank and bonds would be sold to cover this amount.

THE other trust members technically in control were not present at the January 15th meeting; since Fox, it is said, had not turned in the resignations of the directors of his company.

IT IS also reported that the scrips had already been printed when the meeting was called, so certain were those in control that the idea would receive adequate support; and these scrips were immediately mailed to shareholders at the close of the meeting.

FOX is putting up a great fight, a history-making fight in one of the toughest financial periods in our financial history.

If Fox does not win out, it will be because "the cards are stacked against him," but our bets are on the odds that he wins out, a bigger and better Fox than ever."

THIS is our wish for Fox this New Year; an dour wish to all our big Showmen. "May they never know defeat." Which brings us back to the question of a Banking, or Trust, an Investment Insurance in our Industry and for our Industry, to protect our real Showmen against just such contingencies as has befallen Fox.

* * * *

IT IS so easy to criticize when trouble appears. If Fox had kept on climbing, climbing, all the present critics would have been disposed to say, "what luck, what showmanship," but run against a snag, and these same croakers are heard to say, "Bit off more than he could chew." "Not sufficiently conservative," "too much of a gambler," "too many commitments," you know the usual line of talk.

IT HAS been said, and wisely said, "Nothing ventured, nothing won." Fox is a gambler, a plunger, but he is undeniably a showman; and his growth to Motion Picture greatness has been as normally conservative as has been the growth of our other picture magnates, only Fox grew independently while some of the others grew through collective affiliation, and co-operation.

Perhaps this Industry does not realize that should Fox fail it will be a calamity in our Industry; and will not do the financial standing of any picture enterprise any good.

THE REACTION of such a failure would be felt throughout the Industry; and we should have a return of greater percentages for loans, etc., because of the greater risks! In addition, the entire American Picture Industry would lose a portion of its dominant and impregnable prestige in countries outside of the United States. So, if for no other but economically selfish reasons, our Industry should see to it that Fox wins out!

THEY CANNOT afford to have Fox fail; and who knows whose turn, in a world that revolves, will come next. "United we stand, divided we fall." Let's stand united!

* * * *

WE HAD an interesting visitor in the person of Phil Kauffman, who is the general foreign representative of National Filmferleigh Und Vertrieb, which in our English language means First National - Warner Bros.

* * * *

PHIL KAUFFMAN was bred to Show Business in Canada; successfully building up distribution for the Allen Bros., under the Famous Players Film Service trademark, for Selznick Pictures and for Regal Films. How successfully Phil has built for First National-Warners can be surmised when we report that he took the world's prize for 1928 and 1929 in a thirteen week's contest for distribution; and the office in Hungary, under his supervision, won second prize for 1929.

THERE are in Germany about 4,300 theatres, and of this number only about 80 have sound installations. 50 with disc equipment and the balance to handle sound on film. In an interview with Phil Kauffman he said, "The dialogue picture is a problem in Germany, since most of the theatres, even to the thousands of houses which have only a capacity of three hundred, are equipped with full orchestras. Germany is a music-loving country, of critical music lovers; and unless they can have the best in tone reproduction, they naturally prefer their orchestras."

"The dialogue films, unless backed by internationally famous stars, have to be in German. Synchronized pictures have not the appeal, for your German picture patron expects dialogue when Sound is advertised."

"THE FIRST SOUND picture released was "The Singing Fool," released last June with Western Electric apparatus. Legal complications developed in respect to patents; and we are now servicing our Sound pictures on German apparatus. Production of talking pictures in Germany is not at present making the headway which the Silent Films made, through a lack of sufficient capital. There is a tremendous industrial spirit in Germany; and the industries are naturally thriving through the application of the workers, but there is no general wealth, and cash is not plentiful for picture production."

(Continued on Page 7)

Observations

(Continued from Page 6)

"AT PRESENT we are releasing "The Jazz Singer," "Noah's Ark," "Disraeli," "The Patent Leather Kid," "The Divine Lady," and many silent pictures, in fact our distribution on Silent Films is in excess this year of last year. We are about one year behind American releases because of our selective method of distribution, but with the sound pictures we will be right up to the minute with American releases."

* * * *

THE DIGEST was interested in the News Reel angle and learned that the UFA releases a news reel weekly, which is a combination of events in Germany, and partly augmented by the Paramount News Reel and Hearst Metrotone, while the Emelka release a weekly of all German events. Both these news reels are silent.

* * * *

MR. KAUFFMAN left for New York, where he will remain in conference for about ten days, returning to London, and then on to his headquarters in Berlin. About twenty foreign countries outside of Germany are under Kauffman's supervision. For these distribution is sold on a state right plan. His company operates seven branch offices.

The Rex Theatre, Regina, Sask., and the Central Theatre, Selkirk, Man., are being installed with the DeForest Phonofilm Sound Systems.

Society of M. P. Engineers

THE first issue of the new Journal of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers will make its appearance early in January. Thereafter it will be published monthly, replacing the semi-annual Transactions, formerly published by the Society. Recommendations for the new Journal were passed upon at the Society's last convention in Toronto.

The new Journal will be the same size as the old Transactions, and will contain from 120 to 150 pages each issue, according to present plans. The Journal will be strictly scientific or technical in nature, carrying only articles of the highest scientific, technical and engineering quality, and shall be kept free from semi-popular, commercial, trade, and advertising types of articles.

THE contents will consist of articles of the following classes: papers read at the Society's semi-annual meetings and those read at meetings of local sections of the Society; other papers authorized by the publication committee; reprints of papers from both foreign and domestic sources; book reviews; patent notes and news of the Societies' activities, etc.

For the present the Journal will be published by the Journal committee, of which L. A. Jones is chairman, acting as temporary editor. However, it is planned to appoint a permanent who will be assisted by a board of associate editors.

The Journal will go to all members of the Society and subscriptions will be sold to non-members of the Society at the rate of $12 a year.

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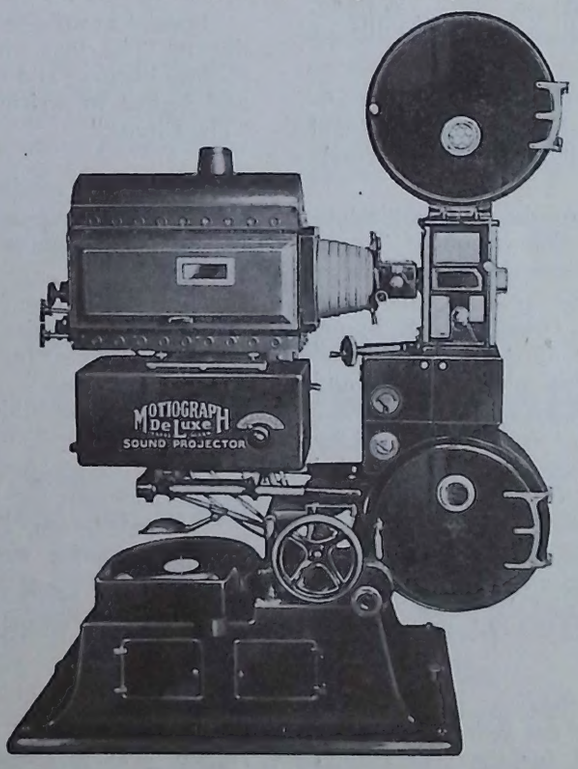
No attachments, neat, sturdy, reliable and almost silent.

Not over $7000.00
More likely $6500.00.



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Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Annual Report

For Most Outstanding Picture of 1928--Award to Adolph Zukor for "Wings." 1929 Awards Not Yet Made--Special Prize to Warner Bros. for "Jazz Singer" and Charles Chaplin for "The Circus."

THE 1929 Annual Report of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences contains many items of more than usual interest, and information which one is fortunate to find available for reference purposes.

The Academy has a membership of 393, including actors, directors, producers, technicians, writers, and what is termed as "special."

The functions of the Academy are threefold as explained in the annual report: 1—harmonious relations within the Industry, 2—promotion of appreciation outside the Industry, and 3 — advancement of the Arts and Sciences of Motion Pictures.

FOLLOWING the policy of the second clause, the report announces that a dinner was given by the Academy in honor of the visiting journalists from England. The dinner was attended by 226 members and guests, and took place in the Roosevelt Hotel, Nov. 7th, 1928.

Among the visitors were St. George Armstrong, Daily Chronicle Group; William Cowper, Barrons Yorkshire Evening News; Ralph D. Blumenfeld, London Daily Express and President of Institute of Journalists; William Clarke, Belfast Telegrapher; W. J. T. Collins, South Wales Argus; H. G. Davey, Barrow's Worcester Journal; Sir Charles Igglesden. Kentish Express; T. Jacques, Surrey Country Herald; F. Lawrence Johnson, Northeastern Daily Gazette; Henry Collinson Owen, Daily Telegraph; Alan Pitt Robbins, London Times; P. B. M. Roberts, Edinburgh Scotsman; R. A. J. Walling, Plymouth, Independent; and William Robert Willis of the Yorkshire Post.

THE COMMITTEE in charge of the Academy's entertainment of the guests was, Harry Rapf, Reginald Barker, Fred Beetson, Cedric Gibbons, Frank Woods and Fred Niblo.

Another event of importance was the Academy's contribution at the Annual National Convention of Teachers of Speech, held in Chicago, December 27, 1928.

Milton Sills. a member of the Academy, delivered a "Speech in Talking Pictures." Dean Ray K. Immel and Professor W. R. MacDonald of the University of Southern California presented this photographed and recorded address.

The Sills' talking picture record was contributed by Warner Bros. It establishes a precedent in recorded addresses in picture form and is frequently utilized at Academy meetings.

The work of the Academy is so far-reaching and general that one cannot begin to get an idea of its standing in relationship to the Industry and the public without reading the annual report, as it were, from "cover to cover."

THE LIST of awards for meritorious achievements bestowed by the Academy for the year ending July 31. 1928, and the awards offered for the year ending July 31st, 1929, are as follows:

For the most outstanding picture of the year, the award went to Adolph Zukor for "Wings." President Fairbanks presided with Vice-President DeMille who made the presentation.

In recognition of the distinguished service rendered to the Academy by its First President, Mr. Fairbanks, he was awarded a life membership and was also named Past President.

Further awards for 1928—Headed first awards, went to Emil Jannings, for distinguished performances in "Way of All Flesh" and "The Last Command."

Janet Gaynor for distinguished performances in "Seventh Heaven," "Street Angel" and "Sunrise."

Frank Borzage for distinguished achievement in directing "Seventh Heaven."

Lewis Milestone for distinguished achievement in directing "Two Arabian Knights." Ben Hecht for distinguished achievement in writing the original story for "Underworld."

Benjamin Glazer for distinguished achievement in adaptation of "Seventh Heaven." Joe W. Farnham for distinguished achievement in writing titles of "Telling the World," and "Fair Co-Ed." Charles Rosher for distinguished achievement in cinematography in "Sunrise."

Karl Struss, for distinguished achievement in cinematography of "Sunrise."

William Cameron Menzies for distinguished achievements in art direction of "The Tempest" and "The Dove." Roy J. Pomeroy for distinguished engineering achievements in "Wings." Fox Film Corporation for artistic quality of "Sunrise."

Special awards were given to Warner Bros. for producing "The Jazz Singer" marking an epoch in Motion Picture history; and to Charles Chaplin for his versatility and genius in writing, acting, directing and producing "The Circus."

THOSE who received honorable mention according to the annual report as follows: Richard Barthelmess, for his performances in "The Noose" and "The Patent Leather Kid."

Gloria Swanson for her performance in "Sadie Thompson." Louise Dressler for her performance in "A Ship Comes In." Herbert Brenon for directing "Sorrel and Son." King Vidor, for directing "The Crowd." Ted Wilde for directing "Speedy." Lejos Biro for writing "The Last Command."

Alfred Cohen for adapting "The Jazz Singer." Anthony Coldeway for adapting "Glorious Betsy."

George Marion, Jr., for writing titles of "Oh Kay," Gerald Daffy for writing titles of "The Life of Helen of Troy."

George Barnes for cinematography of "Sadie Thompson," "The Devil Dancer," and "Magic Flame."

ROCHUS GLIESE for art direction of "Sunrise." Harry Oliver for art direction of "Seventh Heaven." Nugent Slaughter for engineering effects in "The Jazz Singer." Ralph Hammeras for engineering effects in "The Life of Helen of Troy." Fox Company for "Seventh Heaven." Caddo Company for "The Racket."

Paramount-Famous-Lasky Corp. for "Chang." Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for "The Crowd."

Show Business

An official denial has come from N. L. Nathanson, former managing director of Famous Players Canadian Corp., that his $25,000,000 theatre chain project in Canada has been called off or delayed because of financing problems. "The financing of the company has already been provided for," he said, also pointing out that franchise arrangements have been made with various film producing companies.

T. D. Bouchard, member of the Quebec Legislative Assembly for Quebec and a prominent exhibitor and theatre owner of St. Hyacinthe, has received the appointment of Speaker of the Provincial Legislature. Mr. Bouchard has been prominent in exhibitor organizations in recent years.

The one dark cloud among the financial statements of important theatre organizations in Canada has been reported by Hamilton United Theatres, Limited, operating two theatres in Hamilton, Ontario, having a combined seating capacity of 4,478.

The financial report for the fiscal year shows that earnings were not sufficient to meet the preferred dividend and the 12 months closed with a deficit of $37,201, as compared with a surplus of $15,716 for the previous 12 months. Net earnings were $62,854, as compared with $125,173 for 1928. Both houses are equipped for audiens and the sum of $9,582 was written off for this equipment. Total assets were $2,234,008.

Thanks to excellent headwork on the part of employees, the audience in the King Theatre, College Street, Toronto, enjoyed an evening performance totally unaware that a fire had occurred in the projection room of the theatre where a film had ignited. The fire department was called and two lines of hose were laid but the blaze was put out with chemical extinguishers while the crowded house continued to enjoy the show.

The exhibitors of Montreal enjoyed a luncheon in the Mount Royal Hotel as guests of the Canadian Universal Film Company, when the speaker was J. May of the Universal executive, who was introduced by Fred Leduc, local manager. Announcements were made regarding "All Quiet on the Western Front," "King of Jazz," Graham MacNamee's talking news reel, and others.

The brand new Parliament Theatre, Toronto, figured prominently in the day's news when an automobile, after crashing another machine, mounted the sidewalk and dashed into the cashier's kiosk in the centre of the theatre entrance. The cupola was overturned and smashed, with Miss Billie Fluhrer, the ticket-seller, being pinned under the wreckage. Incidentally, money was scattered in all directions.

Fortunately, Miss Fluhrer was only scratched and when she saw the big crowd which had been attracted by the noise, she insisted on starting in to sell tickets from another wicket.

The Parliament Theatre was only opened a few days previously by Bloom and Fine Theatres, Limited, a subsidiary of Famous Players Canadian Corp. The house cost $125,000 to build and already a new box office is necessary.

Manager Joe Franklin of B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, has found it necessary to engage extra office help because of the flood of mail from all parts of Eastern Canada, New England and the Central States due to the radio broadcasts from the stage of the theatre every Monday night through Station CNRO. Recently he has offered prizes for the best "applause letters."

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Round About the Studios

Screech of sirens and incessant rattle of gun-fire, which recently caused part of Hollywood to fear a riot had broken out, was merely the filming and recording of a prison-escape scene in Dolores Del Rio's all dialogue picture, "The Bad One," with Edmund Lowe. George Fitzmaurice spent all one night directing these noisy and spectacular chapters of "The Bad One."

"Murder on the Roof," a special Columbia production and one of the most important vehicles on the current season schedule, is the company's first release for the New Year. It is an all-talking adaptation of F. H. Doherty's famous "Liberty Magazine" serial of the same name which proved the greatest circulation builder since "Wings."

James Gleason has been signed by Tiffany to play a leading part in Tiffany's "Cyclone Hickey," an all-talking adaptation of a story by A. P. Younger.

Laurel and Hardy are half way through "Blotto," with Spanish and French versions. James Parrott directing. American supporting cast: Anita Garvin; Spanish cast: Linda Loredo; French support: Georgette Rhodes. Big cabaret scenes with special dances.

Joseph Santley, noted Broadway star and stage producer, has arrived at Pathe's West Coast Studios in Culver City to supervise the production of this company's forthcoming musical comedies and revues.

His first assignment probably will be George Gershwin's "Treasure Girl," which will be among the biggest productions of Pathe's current production schedule.

Samsan Raphaelson, author of "Jazz Singer," "Young Love," "White Man," and other plays, arrived in Hollywood recently and is already in heavy conference with William Le Baron on the first story he is to do for Radio Pictures.

Judith Barrie, who plays a leading part in Tiffany's "Party Girl" now at the Gaiety Theatre, once was a model for James Montgomery Flagg, the artist. In "Party Girl" she makes her debut as a picture player and acquits herself with credit.

Max Steiner, one of New York's most famous musical conductors, whose latest New York presentation is "Sons o' Guns," musical hit, is the latest big name added to the roster of Radio Pictures.

Mr. Steiner becomes associate musical director at the RKO Studios, collaborating with Victor Baravalle, conductor of music for "Rio Rita," "Hit the Deck" and other Radio successes.

Jean Lang, "America's sweetheart of the air," whose personality has stamped her as an exceptional radio artist, has been placed under long-term contract by Carl Laemmle, Jr. It was her work in "The King of Jazz" which demonstrated her adaptability to the screen as well as to the radio.

Almost every star under contract to Fox Films will appear in the "Fox Movietone Follies of 1930." Fox color will be employed for several sequences of the production, which John Blystone will direct and for which Owen Davis, Sr., is writing the story. The "Follies" is the second Fox production featuring wholesale quantities of stars. The first is "Happy Days," soon to be released, which was filmed in Grandeur under the direction of Benjamin Stoloff.

"Roadhouse Nights" has been selected as the final title for the original Ben Hecht story recently filmed at the Paramount Long Island studio under the working title of "The River Inn."

This talking production directed by Robert Henley features Helen Morgan, Charles Ruggles, Fred Kohler and the comedy trio, Clayton, Jackson and Durante, who make their screen debut in this picture.

Sound picture rights to Robert Service's poem, "The Shooting of Dan McGrew," has been acquired by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

"Our Gang," who are working hard in "Bear Shooting," under the able direction of Robert McGowan. A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer release.

Van and Schenck, vaudeville headliners, appearing in their first Motion Picture, "Take It Big," for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Walter Huston, stage and screen star who will play the title role in D. W. Griffith's all dialogue film special, "Abraham Lincoln," for United Artists, is travelling from New York to Los Angeles by slow boat in order to give his beard and hair a chance to grow.

Harry Langdon just finished "The Shrimp," directed by Charles Rogers. Supporting cast, Thelma Todd, Raida Rae, Knute Erickson, James Mason, Catharine Clare Ward, Max Davidson. Spanish version with same cast.

Earl Burtnett's Biltmore Orchestra and the Biltmore Trio, famed on the West Coast and also for radio and phonograph work, are seen and heard in Tiffany's all-talking, singing and dancing special "Party Girl."

Talking picture rights to "Six Cylinder Love," widely known stage play, have been acquired by Fox Films. No cast or director has yet been assigned.

Clara Bow continues to be the most popular feminine player on the screen, according to a nationwide poll of exhibitors for 1929 just completed by the Exhibitor's Herald-World. Nancy Carroll, another Paramount star, is third on the list of women players. Charles "Buddy" Rogers was second in the list of men.

Andy Rice, lyric writer, and Jack King, composer, have been placed under contract by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Rice is author of a number of books and musical comedy skits, while King wrote the hit song of Cecil B. De Mille's first talking picture, "Dynamite."

Joseph Schildkraut has been assigned the starring role in "The Czar of Broadway," which will soon go into production at Universal, it was announced last week. No director has yet been assigned.

Charley Chase preparing a new story to be directed by Warren Doane.

Follow the Trail of the Pioneer

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FILM DAILY of Jan. 12 says:

ANN HARDING in

"Her Private Affair"

(All-Talker)

Pathe Time, 1 hr., 10 mins.

ANN HARDING SUPERB IN TENSELY DRAMATIC ROLE. FINE DIRECTION AND STRONG CAST MAKE THIS ACE ENTERTAINMENT ANYWHERE.

Drama. The locale in Austria, and Ann Harding as the wife of a judge finds herself in a situation where she sees a man on trial for his life for a murder she committed. Placed in a compromising situation by the victim, she shoots him, and when the defendant is forced to face the judge, her husband, she hires counsel to defend him. After he is acquitted, her guilt prays upon her, and forces her to leave her husband. Through friends, they are brought together at a New Year's party, and there the disclosure of her guilt is brought about in a highly dramatic manner. Ann Harding is superb throughout, and gives a moving performance that is one of the outstanding roles of the year. Direction, and the balance of cast are exceptional. A fine production from all angles that is bound to click.

Cast: Ann Harding, Harry Bannister, John Loder, Kay Hammond, William Orlamond, Lawford Davidson, Elmer Ballard, Frank Reicher.

Directors, Paul Stein, Rollo Lloyd; **Author,** Herman Bernstein; **Adaptor,** Francis Edward Faragoh; **Dialoguer,** the same, **Editor,** Fred Maguire; **Cameraman,** Dave Abel; **Monitor Men,** D. A. Cutler, W. C. Brown.

Direction, excellent. **Photography,** fine.
—Harrower

PATHE Produces Another Winner

ANN HARDING in Her Private Affair

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